

American

NEWS & VIEWS

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Secretary Clinton's Travel to Paris for Libya Contact Group's Meeting

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesperson
August 29, 2011

STATEMENT BY SPOKESPERSON VICTORIA NULAND**Secretary Clinton's Travel to Paris**

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will travel to Paris, France September 1 to participate in a senior-level meeting of the Contact Group on Libya. The Paris meeting will build on the productive Libya Contact Group meeting in Istanbul on August 25 and will provide the international community with an opportunity to further coordinate our financial and political support for the TNC. The days and weeks ahead will be critical for the Libyan people, and the United States and its partners will continue to move quickly and decisively to help the TNC and address the needs of the Libyan people. Libya's transition to democracy is and should be Libyan-led, with close coordination and support between the TNC and its international partners. The United States stands with the Libyan people as they continue their journey toward genuine democracy.

Deputy Secretary Nides: Ten Things About State, USAID

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U.S. Department of State Official Blog**Ten Things You Should Know About the State Department and USAID**

Posted by Thomas R. Nides
August 26, 2011

Thomas R. Nides serves as Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

Do you ever wonder what the State Department and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) do every day and what it means for you?

In the eight months since I joined the State Department, I've learned firsthand about the important and wide ranging work done by the women and men who work here and around the world to enhance our national and economic security. We help train the Mexican National Police forces who battle violent drug gangs just south of our border and serve alongside our military in Iraq and

Afghanistan. We negotiate trade agreements and promote U.S. exports by reducing barriers to commerce.

Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates used to say that the Department of Defense has as many people in military bands as the State Department has in the Foreign Service. With just over one percent of the entire federal budget, we have a huge impact on how Americans live and how the rest of the world experiences and engages America.

Here are a few examples of what we do on behalf of the American people:

1. We create American jobs. We directly support 20 million U.S. jobs by advocating on behalf of U.S. firms to open new markets, protect intellectual property, navigate foreign regulations and compete for foreign government and private contracts. State economic officers negotiate Open Skies agreements, which open new routes for air travel from the United States to countries throughout the world, creating thousands of American jobs and billions in U.S. economic activity each year.

2. We support American citizens abroad. In the past eight months, we provided emergency assistance to, or helped coordinate travel to safe locations for, American citizens in Japan, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Bahrain, and Cote d'Ivoire in the wake of natural disasters or civil unrest. Last year, we assisted in 11,000 international adoptions and worked on over 1,100 new child abduction cases -- resulting in the return of 485 American children.

3. We promote democracy and foster stability around the world. Stable democracies and prosperous communities are less likely to pose a threat to their neighbors or to the United States. South Sudan, the world's newest nation, can be a viable ally for the United States in east Africa, but right now, violence and instability threatens its success. U.S. diplomats and development experts are there to help the South Sudanese learn how to govern and develop their economy so that South Sudan can stand on its own. In Libya, we helped create unprecedented international support to help the people shed 42 years of dictatorship and begin the long path to democracy.

4. We help to ensure the world is a safer place. Our nonproliferation programs have destroyed dangerous stockpiles of missiles, munitions and the material that can be used to make a nuclear weapon. The New START Treaty, negotiated by the State Department and signed by President Obama in 2010, reduced the number of deployed nuclear weapons to levels not seen since the 1950s. And, in 2010, the State Department helped more than 40 countries clear millions of square meters of landmines.

5. We save lives. Our programs that fight disease and

hunger reduce the risk of instability abroad and, in return, protect our national security. Strong bipartisan support for U.S. global health investments has led to unparalleled successes in the treatment, care and prevention of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, as well as saved millions from diseases like smallpox and polio.

6. We help countries feed themselves. In the United States, we know agriculture. Building upon what we do best — grow and produce food — we help other countries plant the right seeds in the right way and get crops to markets to feed the most people. Food shortages can lead to riots and starvation, but strong agricultural sectors can lead to stable economies, helping countries become strong U.S. trading partners.

7. We help in times of crisis. After this year's earthquake and tsunami in Japan, State and USAID sent disaster response experts, nuclear experts and urban search and rescue teams to work assist the government of Japan with meeting immediate needs. Secretary Clinton personally delivered much needed supplies to Chile within hours of a devastating earthquake. From earthquakes in Haiti to famine in the Horn of Africa and devastating fires in Israel, our experienced and talented emergency professionals deliver assistance to those who need it most.

8. We promote the rule of law and protect human dignity. Every day, we help people find freedom and shape their own destinies. In Uzbekistan, we negotiated the release of prisoners held simply because their beliefs differed from those of the government. In Vietnam, we prevented political activists from suffering physical abuse. We have trained lawyers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to help rape victims, police officers in Peru to combat sex trafficking, and journalists in Malaysia in an effort to make their government more accountable.

9. We help Americans see the world. In 2010, we issued 14 million passports for Americans to travel abroad. We facilitate the lawful travel of students, tourists and business people, including issuing more than 700,000 visas for foreign students to study in the U.S. last year. And, if a storm could disrupt your vacation plans or if you could get sick from drinking the water, we alert you through our travel warnings.

10. We are the face of America overseas. Our diplomats, development experts, and the programs they implement are the source of American leadership around the world. They are the embodiments of our American values abroad. They are a force for good in the world.

The United States is a leader for peace, progress and prosperity, and the State Department and USAID help deliver that. All of this (and more) costs the American taxpayer about one percent of the overall federal budget.

That is a small investment that yields a large return by advancing our national security, promoting our economic interests, and reaffirming our country's exceptional role in the world.

Ambassador Rice on Attack on U.N. Offices in Nigeria

USUN PRESS RELEASE

August 26, 2011

Statement by Ambassador Susan E. Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, on the Attack on the United Nations Offices in Abuja, Nigeria, August 26, 2011

The United States strongly condemns the heinous attack against innocents at the United Nations offices in Abuja, Nigeria this morning. The offices house the UN's humanitarian and development agencies, and the victims were ordinary people carrying out extraordinary work. To those who benefit directly from their dedication and generosity, they are heroes.

There is no justification for such brutality, there are no rewards for such cowardice, and there must be no impunity for those who are responsible. Today, we mourn those who were lost and extend our heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of the victims. The United States will stand with the United Nations and the people of Nigeria as we work together to recover from this tragedy.

More Taxi Companies Turning to Greener Operations

By Karin Rives | Staff Writer

Washington — Mike and John Schmidt long had dreamed of opening their own taxicab company in the Midwestern college town where their family had lived for several generations.

Opportunity knocked in 2010 when the business plan the brothers brought before the city council in Madison, Wisconsin, was approved without a hitch. They had startup capital from the sale of another company years ago, and a local dealer of hybrid Toyota Prius cars had already offered to sell an initial 10 vehicles to get the company going.

Green Cab of Madison took off, and a lot faster than the Schmidt brothers had ever hoped.

"It was perfect timing with all the Priuses hitting the market and everybody talking about going green," said Amanda Schmidt, Mike's 24-year-old daughter and Green Cab's marketing manager. "We weren't supposed to add the next 10 cars until we had been open for a year, but we had to add them right away. A lot of people really like us,

and we've never even done any traditional advertising."

Environmentally minded taxi companies have popped up in cities across the United States in recent years, appealing to riders who want to minimize their carbon emissions while on the road. In Arlington, Virginia, for example, a company called EnviroCab made a splash a few years ago when it opened as "the world's first carbon-negative taxi fleet." In Boston, the city has required all taxi companies to go hybrid by 2015.

With rising gasoline prices, such taxi companies are often able to offset high investment costs with lower operating costs.

Green Cab's 20 Prius taxicabs in Madison get an average of 50 miles per gallon of gasoline (21.3 kilometers per liter). That compares with 15 or 20 miles per gallon (about 7 or 8 kilometers per liter) for a traditional American taxicab model, Schmidt said. Lower fuel costs translate into lower fares for customers; Green Cab now offers the best price in town for certain fares.

Of course it takes more than savings of a few dollars to get people to grab your cab, especially in a town with several other taxi companies. Green Cab tries to further distinguish its business with a high-tech taxi dispatch system that runs on a custom-made software program the company ordered to meet its specific needs.

HIGH-TECH DISPATCH

For customers who want to keep fares down and travel greener, Green Cab picks up other riders who are headed in the same direction. Customers can order a direct ride for a little bit more money.

Green Cab's software system calculates the fare upfront when a customer calls in — taking into account the ride options and Madison's complicated city zone system, which leads to an extra charge anytime a cab crosses a city zone border.

The call taker at Green Cab enters the rider's phone number, address, type of ride and destination into the system, which then crunches the numbers. The fare has already been calculated and communicated to the customer by the time the taxi arrives.

The taxi fee is set, regardless of what route the driver takes or whether the car gets stuck in traffic. All cars are equipped with Apple iPad tablet computers that are connected to Green Cab's booking software and that provide GPS navigation for the drivers.

"People getting into the cab are often taken aback when they see the driver using an iPad," Schmidt said.

Another perk for green customers: Each car carries a bicycle rack to accommodate people who bike but want a ride one-way or part of the way.

"It's important for the next generation that we think about the environment," Schmidt said.

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